

# Virginia Department of Historic Resources

## PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 053-5783
Property Name(s): <u>Murray Hill</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1938</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post    Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>42910 Edwards Ferry Road</u> City: <u>Leesburg</u> Zip: <u>20176</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Loudoun County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Leesburg</u>	

<b>Physical Character of General Surroundings</b>
Acreage: <u>56.7</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:    The Murray Hill property is a 50 acre parcel located on the eastern edge of the town of Leesburg in Loudoun County. It is bounded on the north by 100 foot bluffs overlooking the Potomac River and on the south by Edwards Ferry Road. In addition to the main dwelling, the property contains a carriage house, tenant house, old vacant house, boat house, sheds, barn, chicken/poultry house, and log dwelling. A smoke/meat house was moved to the property when the main dwelling was built. The historic boat landing at the river is still in use. The property retains its rural character; it is partly wooded with rolling terrain and partly open meadow used for horse and cattle pasturage. The property is under land conservation easement.
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal

<b>Individual Resource Information</b>
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...
<u>Dwelling and agriculture</u>
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Dwelling and agriculture</u>
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Colonial-Revival exterior – Federal style interior</u>
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Builder and owner: Stirling Murray Rust</u>
# of stories <u>2.5</u> Condition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>no</u>

### Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

**Foundation:** Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. The raised foundation is stone with supporting steel I-beams in the basement.

**Structure:** Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. The original part of the house is constructed entirely of course ashlar stone with a frame, screened-in side porch. A two-story frame addition with stone foundation was built on the back (north side) of the house in 2006.

**Walls:** Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. The original structure is course ashlar stone. The 2006 addition is frame covered with cement siding that looks like wood.

**Windows:** Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? The double-hung windows are made of wood and are primarily 6-over-6. The attic level has on the south and north elevations two gable dormers with traceried windows.

**Porch:** Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. The portico has a flat, wood roof and is supported by four wood columns. The entryway has a large, door with raised oval panels and sidelights with elliptical patterned mullions.

**Roof:** Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. The side gable roof is covered with slate shingles.

**Chimney(s):** List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. The main block has exterior, stone chimneys on both ends. The west wing has an exterior, stone chimney.

### Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

Stirling Murray Rust purchased the 56.7 acre property in 1937 and began construction of the main dwelling in 1938. He utilized the skills and services of his company, Rust Engineering in Pittsburgh, to acquire materials and build the house. As a result, certain elements of the house incorporate commercial building materials, such as steel I-beam supports in the basement. The war made materials difficult to come by and it took approximately one year to finish the house. Mr. Rust wanted interior elements to copy those at Rockland (DHR #053-0096), the early-1800s home north of Leesburg where he was born and raised. Walter Armentrout, a stone mason with Rust Engineering, built the house. The woodwork was made in Frederick, MD. Mr. Rust's engineering background is evident in the many special features and details incorporated into the house, such as the stone storage bins in the screened porch that hold firewood for the parlor's fireplace; stone jack or rounded arches over the windows; and the elaborate design of the attic dormers on the south and north elevations.

The two-and-a-half story, double-pile house represents the Colonial-Revival style on the exterior and Federal style on the interior. The original house has not been altered and retains its historical integrity. A one-story, frame mudroom on the west elevation and a one-story, frame family room on the north elevation were added in 2006 and are sympathetic to the historic main block. The five-bay historic structure is made of stone with a frame screened porch on the east elevation and a two-story, single-pile stone wing on the west. The west elevation is connected to the two-story Carriage House, which is stucco over concrete block, by a frame mudroom and covered walkway.

The stone was likely quarried east of Leesburg on what is present day Belmont Ridge Road. This assertion is supported by the stone mason who built the foundation for the rear addition. The rock came from Luck Stone Quarry, which is on Belmont Ridge Road, and is the same as the original stone.

Copper downspouts bear the construction date and the initials of the builder and his wife: MHR [Mary Hilton Rust] 1938 and SMR [Stirling Murray Rust] 1938. The attic level on the north and south elevations contains two gable dormers, with tracery windows framed on each side by fluted pilasters.

The porch has a flat roof supported by four columns. The entranceway contains a six-paneled door with raised oval panels, two fluted half-columns, and sidelights with elliptical tracery and lower panels with the raised ovals that match the door.

The Federal style interior of the house reflects the architecture of S.M. Rust's boyhood home, Rockland. Situated approximately 3 ½ miles north of Leesburg, Rockland was built in 1822 by General George Rust, and Rust family descendents have resided there ever since. A prominent feature of Rockland's architecture is the elliptical pattern used in its windows and wood paneling, a feature incorporated prominently at Murray Hill.

Like Rockland, Murray Hill has a central-hall plan running north-south. The hallway has wood wainscoting with raised oval panels, as does Rockland. The wood door surrounds are fluted and have a circular decorative feature at the corners. The north elevation door has eight panels with raised oval motif, semi-circular transom, and sidelights with elliptical mullions. This elevation is similar to Rockland's main entrance.

A large parlor or living room runs front to back on the east side of the house and features many of the architectural elements of Rockland. Elaborate woodwork is throughout, including clamshell topped bookcases; dentil molding; wainscoting with raised oval panels; fluted doorframes; raised oval panels above the interior doors; and fanlights above the two doors leading to the screened porch. The magnificent fireplace mantel with Ionic columns topped with an arcade was a special nod to Rockland. Mr. Rust and his brothers used to hide small Christmas presents in the arcade.

To the west of the hall are a bedroom at the front and a dining room at the back. The dining room has a decorative mantel with two, thin fluted columns at each side and a rope-mold in the trim, perhaps a copy of the rope-mold in the cornice of Rockland's entryway. The dining room leads to the kitchen in the two-story wing off the main block. The kitchen was remodeled by the present owners. A back staircase leads to the second floor. To the rear of the kitchen is the one-story, frame addition built in 2006.

The stair leading to the second floor has a half landing and the raised oval paneling runs with the staircase to the second level. The balusters are round and tapered, and there is a scroll decorative feature on the side of the staircase. The landing has a large window with a semi-circular transom matching that of the north door elevation and sidelights with elliptical tracery matching those at both the south and north entryways.

The elliptical molding is present in the second floor hallway. The floor plan is the same as that at Rockland and has a master bedroom with sitting room and private bathroom and two bedrooms. The rooms are interconnected through interior doors and two of the bedrooms have fireplaces.

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The property is significant under Criterion C for its architecture representing the period between World War I and World War II.

The property is significant under Criterion B for its associative history with the prominent Rust family of Virginia.

### **Historical Background**

The property is bounded on the north by high bluffs overlooking the Potomac River and to the south by historic Edwards Ferry Road (DHR# 053-6078). The land slopes to the east as the bluffs give way to shoreline and a river access. The parcel has a rolling landscape with seasonal streams and is part woodland and part open field. Given its water sources and safe location on the bluffs, prehistoric usage and/or settlement is possible. The site has not been surveyed for prehistoric archaeological potential.

Edwards Ferry Road has been used for over 200 hundred years as the main transportation route to Edwards Ferry at the confluence of Goose Creek and the Potomac River. Known as Edwards Ferry on both the Virginia and Maryland side of the river, citizens of Loudoun County petitioned the General Assembly on 19 October 1791 for “the establishment of a ferry from the lands of Benjamin Edwards at the mouth of Goose Creek across the Potomac River to the lands of John Baptist Pierce.”<sup>i</sup>

The Aults and then the Saunders owned the property during the early 1800s to post-Civil War. Deeds, road cases, and chancery cases refer to the river landing on the property as Ault’s Landing and later Chichester’s Landing, and a warehouse was located at the site. Although a ferry license has not been documented, the landing and warehouse support a commercial river crossing of some sort.<sup>ii</sup>

During the Civil War, troops from both sides passed through the area on the strategic transportation route of Edwards Ferry Road. It played a part in the October 21 and 22, 1861, Battle of Ball’s Bluff and Skirmish at Edwards Ferry. The road was the site of the 3rd New York Cavalry’s diversion the morning of the battle. It was the route for Federal pickets from Edwards Ferry landing toward Leesburg. The day after the battle, the 13th Mississippi was stationed along the road to watch the Federals at the landing.

A log dwelling (DHR# 053-5367), estimated to be built circa 1830, is on the eastern boundary of the Murray Hill property. Clearly visible from Edwards Ferry Road, it would have been known to the soldiers who traversed the road before, during and after the battle at Ball’s Bluff on October 21, 1861.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century property owners were Jeanette Whitton Moffet and William Adger Moffett. It is believed that their house was located between the current dwelling and the tenant house. They called their property Happy Landing, perhaps a nod to the historic Ault’s Landing and/or Admiral Moffett’s vocation. He was known as the “Air Admiral” for the role he played in creating the Navy’s Bureau of Aeronautics in 1921. He championed the development and use of dirigibles and was a friend of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Admiral Moffett was on the airship USS Akron, then the world’s largest dirigible, when it went down in a storm off the coast of New Jersey in April 1933. His widow sold the 56.7 acre property to the present owner’s grandfather, Stirling Murray Rust, in 1937.

### **Architectural Significance**

According to the Intensive Level Survey (DHR #053-5783), Murray Hill “is an excellent example of a domestic property type during the World War I to World War II Period (1917-1945)” and “an excellent example of a large and ornate Colonial Revival-style country residence from the inter-war period and appears to possess sufficient integrity and significance to merit listing on the National Register under Criterion C.”<sup>iii</sup>

The Intensive Level Survey documented 14 structures on the property. It excluded the boat house and an old, vacant dwelling. Since the Survey was done, the ca. 1940 frame barn with gambrel roof was destroyed in a high wind storm.

The log dwelling house and well house on the eastern edge of the property (distinguished by a separate street address for fire and rescue purposes) were documented in a separate Reconnaissance Level Survey (DHR# 053-5367).

Contributing Resources for the Period of Significance:

1. Three-bay shed – The ca. 1940 one-story frame structure has wood plank siding with visible bark. The flat roof has a metal covering. The southeast elevation has 3-bays and is open.
2. Smoke/meat house – The ca. 1870 one-story, log structure was moved to the site at the time the house was built.
3. Carriage House – The ca. 1938 two-story garage is made of cinder block and covered in stucco. The gable roof is covered with shingles.
4. Long shed – The ca. 1940 one-story, frame structure has wood siding and a concrete foundation. The gable roof has a metal covering. The fixed windows are 9-light wood sash.
5. Concrete block shed – The ca. 1940 one-story concrete block structure has a flat roof with metal covering.

6. Saw mill – The ca. 1940 one-story, frame structure has vertical wood plank siding and the gable roof has a metal covering. The south elevation has double hinged wooden doors. A large saw is housed inside.
7. Chicken/poultry house – It is a ca. 1940 one-story frame structure with board-and-batten siding. The roof is flat with metal covering.
8. Boat house – It is a ca. 1940 one-story, large frame structure with vertical planks. It is elevated on stilts from the shoreline and accessed on the upper level by steps and wooden walkway. It has a gable roof

#### Non-Contributing Resources:

1. Log dwelling house – The ca. 1830 one-story, log dwelling has side gables and an exterior chimney on both ends. The three-bay façade has a small shed roof porch. There is a modern frame addition at the rear of the house.
2. Tenant house – The single family dwelling was built ca. 1980 and remodeled in 1987. It is a two-story, Colonial Revival style frame structure with vinyl siding and one-over-one vinyl sash windows. The gable roof is covered in shingles
3. Old, vacant house – The construction date is unknown but believed to precede S.M. Rust purchase. It is a two-story frame structure with wood plank siding and a concrete foundation. The gable roof has a seamed, metal covering. It has been vacant for decades.
4. Generator shed – The modern, one-story frame structure has board-and-batten siding and houses a generator. The gable roof has a metal covering.
5. Shed – The modern, one-story frame structure is currently painted green and has vertical boards. The shed roof is covered with metal. The southeast elevation is open. It is used as a walk-in shed for animals.
6. Barn – The ca. 1987 one-story, frame structure has vertical boards and the gable roof is covered in metal.
7. Two-section shed – The ca. 1950 one-story, frame structure has two sections connected by an enclosed walkway. It has board-and-batten siding.

#### **Historical Significance:**

The Rust family is a long-standing, prominent family in Virginia and Loudoun County. The first family member arrived in 1654. S.M. Rust's great-great-grandfather was Richard Henry Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Ancestors served in all of the country's wars; were active in their church's vestries; and were politicians, business leaders and philanthropists.

Stirling Murray Rust was born at Rockland in 1881 to Armistead Thompson Mason Rust and Ida Lee Rust. S.M. Rust moved to Pittsburgh in 1898 and later with his two brothers founded the Rust Engineering Company. The business specialized "in the design and construction of complete industrial plants, industrial buildings....brick and reinforced concrete chimneys, complete power and heating plants, ....and any kind of furnace for iron and steel industry."<sup>iv</sup> In the late 1930s S.M. Rust decided to move back to Virginia and he bought the 56.7 acre parcel on Edwards Ferry Road, approximately 3 miles east of Leesburg.

The Rust family is well-known in Loudoun County. The family donated a large parcel of land to the town of Leesburg for the creation of Ida Lee Park, named for S.M. Rust's mother. The Rust Nature Sanctuary is a wildlife habitat and preserve once called Yeocomico for the Rust family's ancestral home in Westmoreland County. The house contains architectural elements from various Rust family homes, including Rockland. The Sanctuary is a joint partnership between the Audubon Naturalist Society and Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority.<sup>v</sup>

Commitment to the community continues with the present owners of Murray Hill. They serve on non-profit boards, are active in their church, and support the work of numerous non-profit organizations. The land is in conservation easement.

#### **Bibliographic Sources:**

Loudoun County Chancery Cases online; Library of Virginia, <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/>.

Loudoun County Deed Books and Road Cases, Loudoun County Courthouse, Leesburg, Virginia.

Morgan III, James A. *A Little Short of Boats, The Battles of Ball's Bluff & Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*. New York: Savas Beattie LLC, 2011.

Personal interview between Lori Kimball and John and Peggy Rust, July 2013.

Rust, Ellsworth Marshall. *Rust of Virginia, 1654-1940*. Baltimore: The Waverly Press, 1940.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia (VDHR):

Edwards Ferry Road (VDHR 053-6078).

House, 42910 Edwards Ferry Road NE; Murray Hill (VDHR 053-5783).

House, 43022 Edwards Ferry Road (VDHR 053-5367).

**Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ John and Margaret Rust

(Name)

42910 Edwards Ferry Road NE

Leesburg

VA

20176

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

peggyrust@verizon.net

703-431-6584 (home)

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••**

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ Lori Kimball

(Name)

43597 Emerald Dunes Place

Leesburg

VA

20176

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

LHINTERL@aol.com

703-669-2506

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/10/2013

**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ Timothy Hemstreet County Administrator

(Name)

(Position)

Loudoun County

1 Harrison Street SE

(Locality)

(Address)

Leesburg

VA

20175

703-777-0200

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Owners wish to pursue Virginia Landmarks and National Register designation.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒<sup>i</sup> Library of Virginia, Legislative Petitions Database, Reel 111, Box 142, Folder 35,<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/petitions/petitionsSearch.asp>.<sup>ii</sup> LCDB 4B/141, LCDB 4W/40, LCDB 10Z/21, LC Chancery Case M719, LC Road Case RR1831-002, LC Road Case RR1833-005.<sup>iii</sup> DHR# 053-5783 Intensive Level Survey, p. 6 and p.5.<sup>iv</sup> Rust, p. 346.<sup>v</sup> <http://www.rustmanor.com/about/>